

WISCONSIN ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS



Wisconsin is the proud home of the Wisconsin (SE Area) Clean Cities Coalition.

Overview

The State of Wisconsin does not have any incentives for private sector alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). However, Wisconsin municipalities are eligible to apply for competitive cost sharing grants for the added costs of AFVs. The maximum grant is \$4,500 per auto and \$15,000 for trucks, vans, or buses. Each municipality is limited to a total of \$50,000. Several utilities in Wisconsin are active in promoting natural gas vehicles (NGVs), including cash rebate offers from Wisconsin Gas, and Wisconsin Electric for the purchase or conversion of NGVs.

Highlights

- \$ \$500 rebate from Wisconsin Gas for conversion to a natural gas bi-fuel vehicle - - the rebate for the purchase of a dedicated NGV is \$1,000.
- \$ \$500 rebate from Wisconsin Electric for conversions or purchase of an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) NGV.
- \$ Municipalities may apply for grants of up to \$2,500 - \$10,000 per vehicle for AFV purchases for conversions.

State Incentives

\$ The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration oversees the Local Government Alternative Fuels Grant Program. Wisconsin municipalities are eligible for cost sharing grants covering the added costs of AFVs. The funding for this program comes from Oil Overcharge funds. The 1996 grant awards will be announced in November 1996. Funding for the 1997 grant program is pending approval.

The 1996 maximum grant per passenger vehicle is \$4,500 and \$15,000 per truck, van, or bus. Each municipality is limited to a total of \$50,000.

Local government recipients participate in a two-year research program. Participants track operating and maintenance costs, fuel economy, and cold-start information. They must also participate in driver convenience surveys and bring vehicles to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) for comprehensive emission testing on a semi-annual basis. An emission test fee is charged and must be paid by the municipality.

Also, through public-private partnerships, the State promotes alternative fuel infrastructure and use.

The UWM Center for Alternative Fuels offers a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Alternative Fuels Grant Program. Wisconsin municipalities in an 11 county ozone non-attainment area are eligible. The counties include: Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, and Door. The 1996 grant awards will be announced in November 1996. In 1997, \$450,000 in funds will be available to eligible municipalities.

The research program is similar to that under the Local Government Grant Program. Although under the CMAQ grant, municipalities will not be required to pay an emission test fee.

For further information regarding either program contact Kim Kujoth, UWM Center for Alternative Fuels at (414) 229-3881, or Cari Thoma, Alternative Fuels Task Force at (608) 267-9389.

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Utility/Private Incentives

\$ **Wisconsin Gas** customers are eligible for rebates for the conversion of a vehicle to run on natural gas, or the purchase of a factory-equipped NGV. The rebate for conversion to a bi-fuel vehicle is \$500, and the rebate for the purchase of a dedicated NGV is \$1,000. Customer rebates are available for medium- and heavy-duty and off-road applications. Wisconsin Gas provides financing and leasing options for vehicles or refueling infrastructure. For customers considering converting 1 or 2 vehicles to test NGVs, Wisconsin Gas will load a FuelMaker refueling appliance for up to 2 years. Wisconsin Gas operates 2 public compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling stations. Contact Jim Jan Kowski at (414) 273-1763 for additional information.

\$ **Wisconsin Electric** offers a \$500 per vehicle rebate for conversions or purchase of an OEM NGV. Customer rebates for larger vehicles are based on 50¢/therm times the annual fuel usage. Wisconsin Electric will work with fleet owners to customize a rebate to meet their specific needs and will offer financial assistance for refueling stations on a case-by-case basis. To assist customers wishing to convert 1 or 2 vehicles to test NGVs, Wisconsin Electric offers the free use of a FuelMaker fueling station for up to 1 year. Wisconsin Electric also offers technical assistance to anyone wishing to explore the NGV option. For additional information, call Bob Reagan at (414) 221-2284.

Madison Gas and Electric provides low-interest loans for vehicle conversions and financing to build refueling stations. Contact John Coleman at (608) 252-7148 for more information.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) is an ad hoc group created by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the Governors' Ethanol Coalition (GEC) to establish a national program to promote the use of 85% ethanol fuel (E85) as an alternative fuel, enhance agricultural profitability, advance environmental stewardship, and further national energy independence. Through a cooperative effort with the NCGA and its state affiliates, the GEC, state energy offices, and the U.S. Department of Energy, NEVC provides forgivable loans for the installation of public E85 fueling facilities. For more information, contact Phil Lampert at (573) 635-8445, Sandy Hentges at (573) 636-8590, or in Wisconsin, Ted Bachrach at (608) 266-1554.

Public Service Corporation provides information about the advantages of NGVs and will assist customers in obtaining equipment, conversions, and government funding. For more information, contact William Schreiner at (414) 433-2946.

Wisconsin Fuel and Light offers consulting and construction assistance. Call Rick Braenne at (715) 847-6217 for more information.

Laws & Regulations

The Alternative Fuels Task Force was established by the Governor in 1990 to evaluate alternative fuels and develop state policy on the use of alternative fuels.

The Governor has established the "2,000 by 2000" plan to purchase 2,000 AFVs for state use by the year 2000, exceeding the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) requirements.

Act 351 (1993) calls for state employees to use ethanol or alternative fuels for all vehicles leased or owned by the state.

The Clean Fuel Fleet Program administered by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, affects the six county severe ozone non-attainment area (Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, Racine, and Kenosha). The Clean Fuel Fleet Program includes emission standards, a process for fleet registration and labeling, exemption of Clean Fuel Fleet vehicles from time-based transportation control measures and a marketable vehicle credit trading program. The Clean Fuel Fleet Program applies to both public and private fleets based on fleet size and characteristics.

A law enacted in 1984 deregulated the use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel.

The state has initiated public-private partnerships to stimulate ethanol, CNG, propane, methanol, and biodiesel fuels infrastructure and use.

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Points of Contact

Wisconsin (SE Area) Clean Cities Coordinator

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Administration

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UW-Milwaukee Center for Alternative Fuels

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Alternative Fuels Task Force

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Madison Gas and Electric

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National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition

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Wisconsin Gas

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Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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Green Bay-Brown County Planning Commission

Chris Knight (414) 448-3400

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Kenneth Theine (414) 751-4770

Wisconsin State Transportation Contact

Department of Transportation
James McDonnell (608) 266-7575

Wisconsin State Energy Office

Wisconsin Energy Bureau
Don Wichert (608) 266-7312

U.S. Department of Energy

Regional Support Office

Chicago Regional Support Office
Melinda Latimer (312) 886-8582

U.S. Department of Transportation Contacts

Federal Highway Administration

Region 5
Sam Herrera-Diaz (708) 283-3536

Federal Transit Administration

Region 5
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General Services Administration

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Region 5
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator

Region 5
Phil Kaplan (312) 353-4669